

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Sub C 1. (Currently amended): Structure providing access to an area beneath a A floor,
said structure comprising:

having a segment of a floor having an upper surface and covering an opening in
the floor, therethrough;

a floor covering on said upper surface of said floor segment;

B6 an access panel for providing access to said area cables, services or the like
through the said opening, the said access panel including a floor frame located in the opening,
and a lid supported on the frame, the said frame having including a support flange extending
around its periphery therearound, said wherein the support flange being disposed so as to extend
outwardly from the frame extends between the floor covering and the upper surface of the floor
segment.

2. (Currently amended): Structure A-floor as claimed set forth in claim 1,
wherein the flange ~~provides~~ includes a ramped edge.

3. (Currently amended): Structure A-floor as claimed set forth in claim 1,
wherein the flange comprises is formed in two abutting parts formed from respective different
materials.

4. (Currently amended): A rigid structural frame for an access panel ~~comprising~~
~~a rigid structural element for supporting an outlet box or the like~~ providing access through a floor
segment, said the frame including a tapered, outwardly extending outer edge or flange wherein
the flange having a thickness which tapers substantially uniformly over a distance of at least 10;
~~and preferably, 20~~ times the maximum thickness of the flange.

5. (Currently amended): Structure A frame for an access panel comprising ÷ a rigid structural frame, ~~defining~~ having an outer edge, and a tapered flange formed from a soft non structural material, ~~typically a flexible polymeric material,~~ disposed in abutting the relationship to said outer edge.

6. (Currently amended): Structure A frame as elaimed set forth in claim 5, wherein the flange is formed from a flexible polymeric material, and the same is attached to and disposed in overlying relationship to the outer edge.

7. (Currently amended): A frame as elaimed set forth in claim 6, wherein the ~~flexible polymeric material~~ flange is separate from the outer edge and ~~defines~~ presents a step portion arranged to mate with a corresponding recess on the outer edge.

Claims 8-11 (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended): A frame as elaimed set forth in ~~any one of claims claim~~ 4 to 11 wherein the frame ~~defines~~ including a central, lid closable aperture and an upstanding rib which extends around a said central aperture of the frame, which aperture is closable by a lid, the said rib being disposed between the a peripheral edge of the flange and the central aperture, and ~~wherein the upstanding rib being arranged and located such that the same~~ does not project above, and ~~are preferably below, the load bearing surface of the floor, the load bearing surface being the surface~~ a level down to which the ~~pile of the carpet of~~ a floor covering on the floor around the frame would ~~crushes~~ crush under normal usage loads.

13. (Currently amended): A floor structure incorporating including a floor segment, a frame as ~~elaimed in any one of claims~~ set forth in claim ~~4 to 11~~ wherein supported by the floor segment, and a lid for closing an aperture in said frame, the materials and construction

of the frame and lid are being such that the load bearing ~~capacity~~ capacities thereof of the frame and lid ~~is~~ are not substantially less than ~~the same as~~ that of the surrounding floor segment.

14. (Currently amended): A frame as ~~elaimed~~ set forth in claim 12 ~~or 13~~ wherein the lid comprises a rigid structural panel having a flexible overmoulding.

Claims 15-16 (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended): A frame as ~~elaimed~~ set forth in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 4, to 16 ~~wherein the~~ said frame is being rectangular and being arranged and configured to ~~define~~ defines a pivot surface extending ~~that extends~~ parallel to and is spaced inwardly from an inner edge of the frame which ~~inner edge~~ abouts the floor segment ~~deck~~ and defines ~~the~~ an aperture therein.

18. (Currently amended): A frame as ~~elaimed~~ set forth in claim 17, wherein the lid has an underside of the lid that defines a bearing surface which is adapted to slidably engage on the pivot surface to allow the lid to bear on and pivot about the pivot surface.

Claim 19 (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended): A lid for use with an outlet facilitating access through a barrier to ~~for~~ cable services ~~through a barrier such as a floor, wall or the like,~~ said outlet being adapted to be seated ~~on or closely~~ adjacent a surface of the barrier and in communication with an opening therethrough, ~~the~~ said lid including a latch releasably securing the lid in a closed condition relative to the outlet and a hatch that is pivotally connected to a panel of the lid ~~and~~ moveable for movement between an open position ~~in which there is~~ providing an aperture in the lid through which cable services may extend and a closed position ~~in which there is~~ where no such aperture is provided, the arrangement of said latch, hatch and lid panel being such

characterised in that when the lid is latched and the hatch is open, neither the lid ~~or~~ nor the hatch can be raised from a predetermined position by movement of cable.

21. (Currently amended): A lid for use with an outlet facilitating access through a barrier to ~~for cable services through a barrier such as a floor, wall or the like,~~ said outlet being adapted to be seated on or closely adjacent a surface of the barrier and in communication with a hole therethrough, the said lid comprising a rigid panel formed from a rigid structural material, such as metal or engineering grade polymer and an overmoulding formed from a flexible polymeric material, the said overmoulding defining at least one openable hatch.

22. (Currently amended): A lid ~~for an outlet for cable services as claimed set forth in claim 21 wherein is included an integral hinge joining the lid and the hatch are joined together by an integral hinge.~~

Claims 23-28 (Cancelled)

29. (Currently amended): An access panel comprising a frame for insertion into an aperture opening in a floor, wall or the like barrier, wherein the said frame defines defining an aperture around which and including an upstanding rib which extends around the aperture, wherein the edges of the said rib are having a chamfered edge, and wherein the edges of the said access panel including a lid for the access panel are aperture having a chamfered edge formed from a flexible material, the arrangement of said and are also chamfered edges being such that to provide a substantially waterproof sealing fit is provided between the lid and the upstanding rib.

30. (Currently amended): An access panel for insertion into an aperture opening in a barrier, said floor, desktop or the like, the access panel including a floor frame defining a square or rectangular aperture, and wherein said frame further including structure defining a

closed ~~well or trough~~ is defined channel extending continuously along the four sides of the aperture.

31. (Currently amended): An access panel for ~~cable services or the like~~ providing access through a barrier, said panel comprising:

a frame; and

a lid ~~adapted to close~~ configured and arranged for closing the frame;

said the lid including a hatch that is latch ~~pivotaly connected to the lid thereto for movement, a hatch movable between an open position in which there is providing an aperture in the lid for which cable services may extend and a closed position in which there is where no aperture is provided thereby, said the lid being characterized in that the latch is supported in the open position between panel further including two or more latch supporting pillars which have having curved inner faces so as configured and arranged to support the hatch in its open position and thereby define an expanding trumpet-shaped aperture for cables extending through the hatch and outside the panel.~~

32. (Currently amended): An access panel as ~~elaimed~~ set forth in claim 31, wherein the sides of the lid ~~of the lid~~ are tapered ~~inwards~~ inwardly to facilitate closure of against the ~~earpet~~ frame by the lid and ~~also to sweep~~ sweeping aside of any the carpet positioned adjacent the frame to avoid trapping of carpet when the frame is closed by the lid.

33. (Currently amended): An access panel as ~~elaimed~~ set forth in claim 32, wherein the ~~edge~~ tapered sides of the lid ~~has a slope~~ are sloped at an angle of 30 to 45 degrees.

Claims 34-37 (Cancelled)

38. (Newly added): Structure as set forth in claim 5, 6 or 7, wherein the frame includes a central, lid closable aperture and an upstanding rib which extends around said central

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aperture, said rib being disposed between a peripheral edge of the flange and the central aperture and being arranged and located such that the same does not project above a level down to which the pile of a carpet on the floor around the frame would crush under normal usage loads.

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39. (Newly added): A floor structure including a floor segment, structure as set forth in claim 5, 6 or 7 wherein the frame is supported by the floor segment, and a lid for closing an aperture in said frame, wherein the materials and construction of the frame and lid are such that the load bearing capacities thereof are not substantially less than that of the floor segment.

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40. (Newly added): A floor structure including a floor segment and structure as set forth in claim 5, 6 or 7, said frame being supported by the floor segment, being rectangular and being arranged and configured to define a pivot surface that extends parallel to and is spaced inwardly from an inner edge of the frame, which inner edge abuts the floor segment and defines an aperture therein.

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41. (Newly added): A lid as set forth in claim 20, 21 or 22, wherein the barrier is a floor, a wall or a desktop.

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42. (Newly added): An access panel as set forth in claim 29, 30 or 31, wherein the barrier is a floor, a wall or a desktop.